

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a1
Having described how the point-to-point protocol may be used to establish a connection from a computer to the Internet, it should be noted that ~~may~~ many computers are connected to a local area network (or LAN) and access the Internet via the LAN. Section 1.2.3.2 below introduces LANs in general, and Ethernet in particular.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a2
As just stated in § 1.2.2.1 above, during a discovery stage of PPPoE, when a host (e.g., a terminal 1512) wants to establish a connection using PPPoE, it broadcasts a PPPoE Active Discovery Initiation (or "PADI") packet and one or more access concentrators may respond with a PPPoE Active Discovery Offer (or "PADO") packet. As further just stated above, due to the broadcast nature of the PPPoE Active Discovery Initiation (PADI) packets, each one of the ATU-R units 1516 may forward these packets. ~~and, consequently.~~ It may turn out that one of the ATU-R units 1516 may always receive a PADI packet response first. Consequently, traffic between a customer's premises 1510 and its communications provider facility 1520 may not be balanced across the lines 1560. Indeed, a single line 1560 may end up

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serving a large amount of traffic while the other lines
1560 sit idle. Such a situation is clearly undesirable.
